

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising the steps of:
2 monitoring, by a network access controller, data being transmitted from and received by a
3 client system;
4 receiving, in the network access controller, a request from the client system for a data service
5 to be provided by a server system, the request being directed to the server system;
6 determining if the client system is authorized for the data service;
7 if the client system is authorized for the data service, then sending the request to the server
8 system.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller monitors individual packets
2 passing between the client and the server.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller identifies the request by
2 analyzing each packet transmitted from the client system.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller determines if the client system
2 is pre-authorized for the data service.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller determines if the client system
2 is authorized by for a data service by requesting authorization from a management system.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the client system is authorized for a data service after a credit
2 determination.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the user of the client is billed according to the specific data
2 services authorized for the client system.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller discards any request from the
2 client system which is not authorized.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing, in the network access control-
2 ler, statistical data relating to the data services delivered to the client system.

1 10. A network access controller, having a least a processor and a memory, comprising:
2 means for monitoring data being transmitted from and received by a client system;
3 means for receiving a request from the client system for a data service to be provided by a
4 server system, the request being directed to the server system;
5 means for determining if the client system is authorized for the data service;
6 means for sending the request to the server system, if the client system is authorized for the
7 data service.

1 11. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller monitors
2 individual packets passing between the client and the server.

1 12. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller identifies
2 the request by analyzing each packet transmitted from the client system.

1 13. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller determines
2 if the client system is pre-authorized for the data service.

1 14. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller determines
2 if the client system is authorized by for a data service by requesting authorization from a
3 management system.

1 15. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the client system is authorized for a data
2 service after a credit determination.

1 16. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the user of the client is billed according
2 to the specific data services authorized for the client system.

1 17. The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller discards
2 any request from the client system which is not authorized.

1 18. The network access controller of claim 10, further comprising means for storing, in the
2 network access controller, statistical data relating to the data services delivered to the client
3 system.